



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 28, 2011

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES THREE INDICTMENTS FOR INDIANAPOLIS INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR SENTENCING AS ARMED CAREER CRIMINALS

United States Attorney's Violent Crime Initiative continues to yield results

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today the indictment of three Indianapolis men for firearms violations. Due to their repeat-offender status, all are eligible to be sentenced as "armed career criminals," a federal sentencing enhancement that brings with it a sentencing range of 15 years to life and a \$250,000 fine.

"Working together with local law enforcement, our Violent Crime Initiative targets the 'worst of the worst' – repeat offenders who view local jails as their personal revolving door," Hogsett said. "For these three men, that revolving door stops today."

All three men indicted today have extensive criminal histories in the Indianapolis area. All told, their collective rap-sheet includes nearly 20 felony convictions in Marion County alone, many of which included the use of firearms.

Notably, one of the men is alleged to have robbed the Village Pantry at 1415 West 86th Street in June of this year, the same location where clerk Marcella Birnell was shot in the head last week during a similar robbery. Reports indicate that Birnell had previously been robbed four times at that store location, including once in June less than a week after the incident in question.

"One of our key objectives with this initiative is to identify those who repeatedly disregard the law – those who consistently terrorize our neighborhoods – and take them off our streets," Hogsett added. "Federal prosecution means stiffer penalties, no parole, and often means serving time outside of the state, far removed from that individuals network of bad influences and enablers."

Jamel Brown, 35, was indicted in federal court for unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Brown is alleged to have robbed a Village Pantry at 1415 West 86th St on June 22, 2011, the Teachers Credit Union at 5130 West 71st St on June 30, 2011, and on August 8th, 2011, he was caught in possession of a handgun after assaulting an Indianapolis police officer. Brown has been convicted of four previous robberies.

Jaquell Dixon, 35, was indicted for being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number. He was arrested by officers from the Indianapolis Police Department after a domestic disturbance in March of 2011. He was alleged to have been in possession of the handgun with an obliterated serial number at the time of his arrest. Dixon has five prior felonies.

Denny Anderson, 53, was indicted for the unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. He was arrested May 11, 2011, in the 900 block of North Sherman Drive by members of the Indianapolis Police Department for a disturbance in his neighborhood. He was alleged to have been in possession of a 9mm handgun. Anderson has been convicted of eight prior felonies.

Today's charges are the latest in a string of gun-related prosecutions undertaken by the United States Attorney's Office as part of its Violent Crime Initiative. Announced by Hogsett in March of this year, the initiative represents a comprehensive district-wide strategy to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities through improved local collaboration and aggressive federal prosecution.

Already this year, the VCI has caused a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges – from 14 felony possession of a firearm charges in 2010 to 78 thus far in 2011. Major drug trafficking indictments are up 100% from where they were two years ago. And the United States Attorney's Office has seized more than \$4.8 million in assets from drug traffickers this year, which is nearly seven times more than was seized in 2010.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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